



Texas Outdoors Woman Network

## Decorah Bald Eagles!

The Raptor Resource Project brings you the Decorah Eagles from atop their tree at the fish hatchery in Decorah, Iowa.

The live video feed is streamed online 24/7. At night an infrared light provides night vision to viewers through the cam. **Infrared light is not visible to eagles, they do not see it or know it is there.**

**First hatch 4/2/11.**

[24-hour collage](#) of first egg pip and hatch

**Second hatch 4/3/11.**

[First glimpse](#) of second hatchling

**Third hatch 4/6/11.**

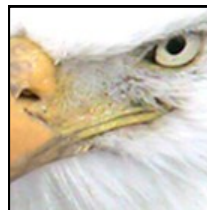
[Close-ups](#) of the third hatch



### Eggs and Hatches, Videos

First Egg Being Laid  
2/23/11 at 5:33 p.m.

- [Part 1.](#) She lays the eggs.
- [Part 2.](#) We get our first look.
- [Video.](#) Second Egg Being Laid 2/26/11 at 6:42 p.m.
- [Video.](#) Third Egg Being Laid 3/2/11 at 6:47 p.m.



*How high is the nest?*

About 80 feet.

*How big is the nest?*

About 6 feet across, about 4 feet deep; it weighs about 1000 lbs.

*How old is the nest?*

The eagles built it in 2007. A previous nest close by fell when a windstorm broke one of the branches.

[Click here to see the live video feed!](#)

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## Upcoming Events

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

**Kayaking Lady Bird Lake @**

Rowing Dock. 6 p.m.

Only \$10! What a bargain!

**Apr 29 - May 2 (Fri - Mon):**

Friends of Balcones Songbird Festival and Camping.

### MAY

**May 1 (Sun):** Hike @ Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park. 10:30 a.m.

**May 13-15 (Fri-Sun):** Camping @ Inks Lake SP.

**May 13-15 (Fri-Sun):** Outreach 2011 TOWN Texas: Birch Creek Unit Lake Somerville.

**May 24 (Tue):** Monthly meeting @ 6 p.m. Dr. Dale Schaeffer will talk about skin protection, skin cancer and what we should look for on our skin from poisonous plants and insects.

**May 27-30 (Fri-Mon):** Camping @ South Llano SP.

### JUNE

**Jun 17-19 (Fri-Sun):** Camping @ Blanco SP.

**Jun 18 (Sat):** Night @ the Ponds. Not a TOWN sponsored event. 7:30-9:30 p.m.

**Jun 28 (Tue):** Monthly meeting @ 6 p.m. Speaker TBA.

### JULY

**Jul 4 (Mon):** Holiday Fireworks & Kayaking on Lady Bird Lake.

**Jul 4 (Mon):** Camping in Lago Vista.

**Jul 8-18 (Fri-Mon):** Camping @ Davis Mountains State Park in Fort Davis, TX.

**Jul 26 (Tue):** Monthly meeting @ 6 p.m. Speaker TBA.

### AUGUST

**Aug 23 (Tue):** Monthly meeting @ 6 p.m. Speaker TBA

### SEPTEMBER

**Sep 16-18 (Fri-Sun):** BOW Outing. Open to any outdoor woman.

**Sep 23-25 (Fri-Sun):** Camping @ Inks Lake SP.

**Sep 27 (Tue):** Monthly Meeting @ 6 p.m. Emily Maline, REI instructor, introduces us to rock climbing!

### OCTOBER

**Oct 14-16 (Fri-Sun):** Camping @ Garner SP's new section.

**Oct 25 (Tue):** Monthly meeting @ 6 p.m. Speaker from West Cave Preserve.

**Oct 28-30 (Fri-Sun):** Camping @ Bastrop SP.

### NOVEMBER

**Nov 4-6 (Fri-Sun):** Practice for Appalachian Trail Hiker Wanna Be Folks @ McKinney Falls SP.

# Trip Reports

## Kayaking: First of 2011 at Lady Bird Lake (Mar 23)

MarshaK, DeAnnK, LindaF, EvelynT, and myself met at the Rowing Dock this evening at 6:00. As we leisurely paddled towards Barton Springs we saw an egret. Linda warned us not to paddle underneath the trees as they were full of cormorants nesting for the evening. We also saw some perch, turtles, and I got a glimpse of an alligator gar. The weather was perfectly cool and pleasant, and the water wasn't even cold. Even though we didn't make it all the way to the springs, a good time was had by all. See you on the water.

~LisaW

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## Hiking: Bright Leaf Preserve (Mar 27)

Three TOWNies (SandyS, Jacque, Gloria), two guests (Stephen, Mark), and one docent (Bill) met at 9 a.m. on a cool Sunday morning for a 3+ mile hike at Bright Leaf Preserve.

Bill (a master naturalist) started off talking about the background of Bright Leaf. It is a 216 acre preserve that was originally the property of Georgia Lucas. It was her vision that the land become a preserve and upon her death, the land was deeded to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. It is now owned by the Austin Community Foundation. Only guided hikes are allowed on the preserve. Along the way to Georgia's house overlooking Lake Austin, Bill pointed out many blooming plants, but the most predominant one was the cedar sage. Some of the other plants in bloom were blue star flowers, nolina texana, and Mexican buckeye tree. Other topics that he talked about were the geology of the area and the preserve's fight against invasive plants. It was a nice leisurely hike around the canyons and to the house.

Some of the birds that we heard were the titmouse, chickadee, white-eyed vireo, blue-grey gnatcatcher, and the endangered golden-cheeked warbler. We also saw a black-chinned hummingbird in the top of a dead tree.

After arriving back at the parking lot, we decided that this wouldn't be a TOWN outing without food, so we went to eat lunch at The Hub. Thanks for joining me on a refreshing hike at one of Austin's jewels! See you on the trails!

~GloriaB

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## Music: Central Market (Apr 1)

This was a last minute event. DebbieG showed up and I brought my friend, Jerri. We found a shady table and Debby and I ordered a delicious meal. Ruby's band didn't get started until about 6:30pm. We listened for about an hour and all looked at each other and decided we wanted to go dancing. I guess the music inspired us. We took off to Dallas night club and hung out there for a while having fun watching the dancers. Debby did not have her dancing shoes on but Jerri and I did get our dancing fix for the evening.

~Marie

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## Camping and Hiking: Big Bend National Park (Apr 1-9)

GloriaB, LisaW, SusanW, LindaW, MarkH, and MarilynF camped and explored Big Bend National Park.

- **Saturday:** We rendezvoused in Junction at Cooper's BBQ. We set up camp at Seminole Canyon, though the tent campers waited till dusk.
- **Sunday:** Chisos Basin Campground, Big Bend National Park. It was wonderful having our whole group together, and we had a chance to plan the week ahead.
- **Monday:** We hiked the Lost Mine Trail.
- **Tuesday:** We hiked to Cattail Falls.
- **Wednesday:** We went on a Jeep Tour from Far Flung Adventures that bumped us into the Christmas Mountains along a mostly accessible dirt road.
- **Thursday:** We said good-bye to LindaW, and we split up for some different activities. Lisa and I stayed in camp, relaxed, and generally did not run off anywhere. Susan, Gloria, and Mark struck out to the southeast portion of the Park where they visited Rio Grande Village, Boquillas Canyon, and the Hot Springs.
- **Friday:** We set off late in the morning to hike the Laguna Meadows Trail, a difficult hike more than four miles up to grassy wonderlands on the Blue Creek Canyon side of the Chisos Mountains.
- **Saturday:** We left our Chisos Basin home: Gloria, Mark, and I for a mid-stop again at Seminole Canyon. Lisa and Susan headed for Austin.
- **Sunday:** We left West Texas, via Highway 90 and Rocksprings again, to join 100's of other carnivores for lunch at Cooper's BBQ.

It was a great week with awesome friends of good cheer and spirit; as Susan coached us to share roses and thorns at our last dinner together, everyone agreed the best part was this: No one whined.

~MarilynF, GloriaB, LisaW, SusanW, and LindaW

**Outing Leaders: Share your adventure & pictures with us!**

# Trip Reports

## Hiking: McKinney Roughts Nature Park (Apr 3)

Nine women (AmeliaG, CarolC, CarolynD, CindyF, Jacque, KeriG [a visitor], KimH, NancyB, and SandyS) plus two pooch pals (Darcy and Snoopy) gathered to hike 4.8 miles in two hours. We met at the Pope Bend Trailhead for the McKinney Roughts park.

With CarolC and CarolynD in the lead, we walked the Road Runner Trail and identified bluebonnets, wine cups, cardinals, and ash junipers. We climbed to the overlook at Meditation Point which has the best view of the Colorado River and is the highest point in the park. While on the Deep Sandy Trail, we saw a Texas Bull snake (per SandyS) that measured about 2.5. Shortly after we noticed a deceased snake which we identified as a young Blotched Water snake (10.25 in). We also noticed a variety of spider-wort flowers in different colors plus numerous ferns.

Then, we voted to detour and visit the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort. We had lunch on the resort grounds with a lovely view of the river. We departed the Hyatt Resort and walked the Pecan Bottom Trail. We enjoyed investigating a 204+ year old pecan tree. On Buckeye Trail we as climbed (yes!) back to Road Runner Trail and onto the Pope Bend Trailhead. Thanks for joining me.

~Jacque

## Touring: Benini Sculpture Ranch & Pedernales Falls SP (Apr 10)

Sunday was a beautiful day for a drive in the country and five of us met (Judy, KeriG, SusieA, JenLaG, and Amelia). The turn off 290 past Johnson City was at the shiny metal cow sculpture - which was a preview of the sculptures we were to see.

Once at the ranch, the roadway was lined with tall, very fancy *yard-art* type sculptures with the name of the sculpture and the artist's name below. At that point, we all wanted to turn back for home and start looking at the thrown-away items in our neighborhoods (the upcoming week was large item trash pickup week in south Austin) and create some yard-art of our own. Alas, we headed on for the rest of the tour.

Arriving at the headquarters, we were treated to a free, large indoor museum with lots of Benini's paintings and small sculptures. Then the tour of the rest of the outdoor ranch sculptures followed - about a 3- 4 mile or so tour. A short drive up a hill to his house with a 270 degree view ended the tour. Here we saw the outside of his beautiful two-story house, more sculptures that we could touch and move, and the COLORFUL chickens. We named the most beautiful chicken the *Lady Gaga* chicken - beautiful, long, black and white feathers all over her body and head - like a fluffy hat. Each sculptor had his own style - my favorite being the moving sculptures often powered by spoon shaped appendages.

After the ranch tour, we ended back in Johnson City where we had a delicious lunch and then stopped by Pedernales Falls state park to walk down to the water fall.

~Amelia

## Music: Old Settlers' Music Festival in Driftwood (Apr 14-16)

In our group were BarbaraD, NancyL, and MarilynF. I arrived at Camp Ben McCullough Thursday around 1 p.m. One band that was terrific Thursday was Milk Drive, a spinoff from the South Austin Jug Band. On Friday, Nancy arrived and that evening we met up with Barbara Deane. We all enjoyed the music, arts, and companionship.

I think the most fabulous artists were Jake Shimabakura, ukulele master, whose set list included *Bohemian Rhapsody*. The best thing about performing a ukelele concert is that peoples' expectations are so low. Sam Bush, who made his bluegrass sound very Jimi Hendrix. Richard Thompson and the kids performed at the Youth Competition Concert. An extraordinary young lady aged 11 named Grace London knocked our socks off with her guitar work and singing of songs by Melanie, Led Zeppelin, and Nancy Sinatra.

I also was delighted with Sonny Landreth playing swamp rock and blues slide guitar and welcoming Eric Johnson onto his stage. The entire festival was run professionally and people were very cordial. I highly recommend it for anyone who enjoys a lovely outdoor music experience, especially if you have sworn off bumping around in the smarmy masses of ACL or SXSW.

~Marilyn

### Dear TOWN Austin Members,

We say it every year and say it again: TOWN groups are our favorite visitors! One of the great pleasures of being Stewards of Chaetura Canyon is being able to spend a pleasant Sunday morning with such a bright, inquisitive group. Thanks so much for your interest and support! Here is a link to other events at this special Travis Audubon Sanctuary: [www.travisaudubon.org/Chaeturacanyonevents2011.html](http://www.travisaudubon.org/Chaeturacanyonevents2011.html). The *Second Saturdays* are a lot of fun and are currently all open. We hope you will have time this year to come out for additional visits.

Very Best Regards,

**Paul and Georgean Kyle**

Travis Audubon's Chaetura Canyon Sanctuary

Please visit our web site: [www.ChimneySwifts.org](http://www.ChimneySwifts.org)

We support conservation through birding: [www.TravisAudubon.org](http://www.TravisAudubon.org)

**E-mail your trip reports to [townaustin@yahoo.com](mailto:townaustin@yahoo.com)!**

# Outdoor Tips & Yum

## Banana Boats!

### Ingredients/Supplies

- Banana
- Chocolate bar, chocolate chips, or peanut butter chips
- Mini marshmallows
- Heavy duty aluminum foil

### Instructions:

Cut your banana down the middle. Leave it in the peel. Stuff with chocolate and marshmallows. Wrap in aluminum foil and place in hot coals for about 5-10 minutes. Turn and rotate often.

[www.lovetheoutdoors.com](http://www.lovetheoutdoors.com)



## TREAD Lightly (Please)

- **T** ravel responsibly on designated roads, trails or areas.
- **R** espect the rights of others, including private property owners, all recreational trail users, campers and others so they can enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed.
- **E** ducate yourself prior to a trip by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies, planning for your trip, taking recreation skills classes, and knowing how to operate your equipment safely.
- **A** void sensitive areas such as meadows, lakeshores, wetlands and streams. Stay on designated routes.
- **D** o your part by modeling appropriate behavior, leaving the area better than you found it, properly disposing of waste, minimizing the use of fire, avoiding the spread of invasive species, and restoring degraded areas.



[www.treadlightly.org](http://www.treadlightly.org)

**Quick Tips to Tread Lightly!:** Learn simple ways to minimize your impact on the environment when recreating. Just click on a recreation type below. Or [here](#) for more.



## Oh, Ranger! ParkFinder

### iPhone App

- The free *Oh, Ranger!* ParkFinder app helps users find adventure by searching for activities at more than 6,000 national parks, state parks, and public lands nationwide.

- The app offers 20 different activity categories including hiking, hunting, fishing and off-highway driving.

- Users may also quickly toggle back and forth to find locations that have any or all of their desired activities.

- Included in this exclusive database are thousands of national parks, state parks, national forests, wildlife refuges, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sites, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) recreation areas and many more public lands.

- Each location is cross-referenced with information about available activities, allowing users to search for nearby parks based on their favorite activities.



[www.ohranger.com](http://www.ohranger.com)

## Jacque's Great Horned Owl Encounter

Spring is an exciting time for birders. Why? It's migration season for some birds and others are hatching young ones. A tip from a fellow birder prompted my drive to south Austin to locate a female Great Horned Owl reported to be sitting on her nest with two young ones. I located the nest and peered at the female through my binoculars. The nest is located about 35' at the top of a live oak tree and is constructed of fairly sizable sticks and lots of mossy looking tree material. Frequently, Great Horned Owls will move into a nest abandoned by a Red-tailed Hawk, because they share the same territory. The female will enhance the nest by pulling her breast feathers to provide more luxury for the babes.

It was breezy that morning and even more so for mom at 35' above street level. Her head feathers and specifically ear feathers were swaying steadily. Initially, I failed to see a baby, but patience pays and finally I spotted a white head. The white feathers were also "blowing in the wind"; does anyone recall Peter, Paul, and Mary? I was happy. I've seen Great Horned Owls in flight but never sitting still and certainly not sitting in a nest.

**Got a recipe or tip to share? Submit to [jenlagrange@yahoo.com](mailto:jenlagrange@yahoo.com).**

# This and That

## Stickers and Magnets - Place Your Order!

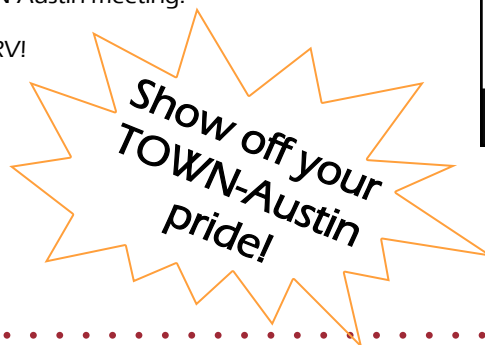
We are ordering 4"x4" stickers (\$1.25 each) and 3"x11" car magnets (\$4.00 each). The quantity will be limited, so please see Judy Dunavant or Jen LaGrange to secure yours!

We plan to have them available at the May TOWN-Austin meeting! To ensure that you get a sticker or magnet (or several), please bring cash to the April TOWN-Austin meeting!

Put 'em on your car, your kayak, your tent, your cooler, or RV!



3"x11" car magnet (\$4.00 ea.)



4"x4" sticker (\$1.25 ea.)

## Welcome New 2011 Members!

- ◆ Barbara Swift
- ◆ Keri Green

We're so glad that you've become a TOWN Austin member!

## 125 or Bust: Help Us Reach Our Goal!

We're currently at 101 members strong...well on our way to 125!

Summer is around the corner and there are lots of outdoor activities planned! Let's get more wonderful ladies outside!

Ask a friend, family member, or co-worker to join! Bring a buddy to a monthly meeting!

**Together We Can Make It Happen!**



## Spotlight on TOWN-Austin Leader: Gloria Blagg

Gloria is your TOWN-Austin Secretary. A member of TOWN Austin for five years, Gloria has held this role for the past four months. Originally from Stinnett, Texas (in the panhandle, northeast of Amarillo—a.k.a. the middle of no where!), she now resides in Cedar Park.

Gloria loves camping and hiking, and she just recently seriously started enjoying birding. Because of her master naturalist volunteering, Gloria's specialty is invasive plants. She is also a member of Capital Area Master Naturalist (CAMN).

Gloria's most favorite TOWN outing to date is hands down the Big Bend campout with Marilyn & TOWN women. Basically, she loves being outdoors. She'd much rather be outside doing anything than being cooped up in the house!

Gloria—thanks for your service to our organization! We appreciate you!



**See a board member or go online for info and a membership form.**

## TOWN Austin

P.O. Box 300494  
Austin, Texas 78703-0009  
townaustin@yahoogroups.com

## Monthly Meeting Location

LCRA's Redbud Center  
3601 Lake Austin Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78703  
(512)473-3535

## Our Mission

Our mission is to provide all women the opportunity to learn and experience outdoor activities in natural surroundings through a non-threatening, safe, and supportive environment.

## Your TOWN Austin Leadership Team

### Coordinator/President

Jacque Austin - jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net

### Membership Chair

Lisa Sands - lsands@austin.rr.com

### Club Treasurer

Janet Fitzsimon-Barr - janetfb@austin.rr.com

### WebWoman

Jacque Austin - jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net

### Publicity Chair

Carolyn Doolittle - cadoolittle5@gmail.com

### Newsletter Editor

Jen LaGrange - jenlagrange@yahoo.com

### Secretary

Gloria Blagg - gloria\_blagg@sbcglobal.net

### Historian, Scrapbook, Web Photos

Sandy Ostiguy - sandyos@yahoo.com

### Outings Coordinator

Judy Dunavant - judy.dunavant@sbcglobal.net

## About TOWN Austin

Texas Outdoors Woman Network (TOWN) is an offshoot of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's *Becoming an Outdoors Woman* (BOW) program. Our goal is to enable outdoor oriented women to meet and build friendships with women who have similar interests. Local chapters have monthly meetings and outings which are initiated, planned, and conducted by members. Read about TOWN Austin's history by reading about our origins online.

Monthly meetings are the fourth Tuesday of each month at the LCRA Redbud Center (3601 Lake Austin Blvd). We begin at 6 p.m. Bring a snack or your brown-bag dinner. The business meeting begins about 6:30. Bring a drink and join us for special announcements, guest speaker, and socializing. Please see our online calendar for details.

Our outings occur on a regular basis. We offer a wide variety of activities. Visit our online calendar to check out what is happening next.

We'd love to show you what TOWN Austin is all about! Prospective members are invited to join us for a couple of outings before becoming an official member!

Our activities include, but are not limited to the following:

- Archery
- Backpacking
- Bird Watching
- Camping
- Day hiking
- Kayaking/Canoeing
- Fishing/Fly-fishing
- Horseback riding
- Mountain biking and road biking
- Geocaching

Most trips are planned with minimal cost in mind. We try to carpool and donate for gas. You are always welcomed to create your own carpool when possible. Lodging costs are divided among the participants. Additional costs may be incurred such as State Park entrance fees or tour fees.

## Interested in leading a TOWN Austin outing?

It's really quite simple and we can always use more leaders. A checklist is available to help you plan an outing so you don't forget anything. There is also a liability release form everyone should sign at the beginning of each outing. See the website for a list of outings we would like to take, but have not yet scheduled.



## Find us on Facebook

Texas Outdoor Woman Network, Austin Chapter

Visit us on the Web  
[www.townaustin.org](http://www.townaustin.org)



Cafe Press offers TOWN Austin t-shirts and other wonderful products.

[www.cafepress.com](http://www.cafepress.com)